

Minutes (Revised) for the ABAC meeting of September 17, 2014

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin and Stephan Miller. Board members absent were Doug Greenfield and Phil Goff. Also in attendance were Bobby Smith, Seth Federspiel and Joey Glushko.

Approval of the minutes for the last meeting. The minutes for the August ABAC meeting were approved after being amended.

Police Department representative, collaboration and expectations. Bobby Smith, who represents the Arlington Police Bicycle Unit, told us that there are now 9-10 bicycle police on the Arlington force. He also said that this should be a permanent change. Jack suggested that we devise a means of keeping in touch with the bicycle police. Bobby answered that we could get in touch with Lt Conroy to open a permanent pipeline. Joey said that she would like to see a permanent liaison to ABAC who would attend our meetings. Scott noted a few issues including (1) asking cyclists to walk at the path crossings is at best a gray area in the law and has led to some arguments, and (2) non-responsive (to bike) traffic signals may lead to some red light running. Christopher added that a police presence would go a long way towards making people behave better on the Bikeway. Jack gave us a summary of the information on bike/pedestrian interactions presented at the National Bike Summit. Bobby emphasized the importance of enforcement and education in policing.

TAC report—Lake St. Bikeway Crossing. Scott told us that the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has been working on plans for moderating the traffic on Lake St. for over a year, and has asked ABAC for input on the TAC signalization proposal. In his opinion, telling bicyclists to dismount at the Bikeway intersection could significantly increase motorist delay. TAC is considering seeing the crossing signalized and synchronized with the signal at Brooks Ave. Scott also suggested that the signal could be simulated by a police officer directing traffic during the morning and evening rush which could predict the effectiveness of an actual signal. Jack suggested that having the lights change soon after being called reinforces compliance. Seth thought that if the bikeway signal is synchronized with Brooks Ave, the light should be green when the light at Brooks is red.

*A motion was made noting that ABAC is in favor of looking into signalizing the Lake St. intersection with the details to be worked out later. The motion passed unanimously.

Joey added she would like to be sure that the vegetation is trimmed at all the bikeway intersections to improve sight lines. Lastly, Scott showed us a bimodal crosswalk design.

Town Day Report. Christopher told us that we need a new tent to protect our table on Town Day and other events. We briefly discussed the type and size of tent we think we need and where the banner should be hung. We then discussed the comments made by people at the event and the fact that the Ryan Livergood, from the Arlington Library would like to install a new bike rack at the Library. Scott and Joey added that additional bike racks are needed at the high school and the Thompson School. Joey suggested that perhaps the DPW could order a batch of bike racks for these locations. The bicycle helmet giveaway was a big success. We gave out about 60 children's helmets and ran out before the event was over.

*A motion was proposed that we will write a letter of thanks to the law firm that donated the children's bicycle helmets that we gave away on Town Day. The motion passed unanimously.

Complete Streets policy development. Scott told us that, if the Selectmen approve a reasonable Complete Streets policy, it would make Arlington eligible for additional grants. Joey added that this policy should be added to the transportation portion of the Arlington Master Plan. Jack made a comment on the Bike Facility Design Guide included in the document. He disagreed with the idea that bike lanes are preferred. He pointed out that the preference should be more context sensitive. Bike lane installation should depend on the traffic patterns, road width and the type of cyclists you are trying to attract. Scott would like to see an endorsement from ABAC for this document.

*A motion was proposed to endorse Bike Facility Design Guide written by a joint committee of ABAC and TAC, with Jack's proposed amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Signage Task Group. Joey has been in contact with all the parties interested in the Bikeway way-finding issue. Our Town Manager is in favor of us participating in the project. The consultants, Toole Design, would like to treat the bikeway signage in the different towns as separate but coordinated contracts. Joey clarified that would be a contract for the design of the signage not the implementation. Meanwhile, Toole is currently doing a bicycle master plan for Bedford including Bikeway signage.

*Motion ABAC endorses moving forward with the Way-finding Project in coordination with the Town of Lexington. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott noted that we had earlier suggested a ride up the bikeway to choose locations for the signs. Joey reminded us that there will be a tri-community meeting on October 25.

Fall bike tour community event. Christopher told us that we haven't heard back from the Medford Bike Committee so the joint ride is probably not going to happen this year.

Gold's Gym Bikeway entrance. Christopher told us that there is a room on the fence, adjacent to the entrance, for a warning sign. He also suggested that we put a sign on Bikeway as well. Scott thought that standard road signs for yielding and warning could be used.

Winter Social Possible topics Cyclists etiquette and safety issues or Lorenz Finison, Boston's Cycling Craze 1880-1900. Jack Suggested that perhaps the book talk could be a separate event hosted at the Library. We discussed possible participants for a panel discussing bike/pedestrian interactions.

Dates for next years meetings: January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20

*Denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller